

OUTER COURT

communications

WICCA SEMINARY NEWS & VIEWS



ISSUE 1-84

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

IMBOLC



IMBOLC / CANDLEMAS



Imbolc/Candlemas, also known as Brigantia is celebrated the first of February. This is the feast of the "Waxing Light" or "Feast of Lights." Imbolc is attributed to the Goddess Bridget or Bride and is her festival to mark the (awakening) of the earth and the Spring.

There are many traditional rituals still held at this time. One is in Ireland, where the people prepare an image of the Bride/Bridget on the eve of Brigantia-Imbolc, fashioned out of corn-straw. This effigy is supposed to come alive with the spirit of Bride during the night. Offerings are left out overnight for Bride to partake of as she journeys around the land this night.

In the Highlands of Scotland an effigy of Bride made by young women from the last years corn sheaf, was carried around the community, and gifts were collected for the feast of Bride. The festival here was strongly matriarchal, the door of the feasting place was barred to the men of the community who had to plead humbly for permission to honor Bride.

Perhaps one of the most important and archetypal aspects of this festival was the lighting of the candles or torches at midnight. This activity was transferred in more recent centuries to February 2nd and the Catholic Candlemas ceremony, the festival of the purification of the virgin. It is interesting that during the sixth century the early Christian St. Bride of Kildare founded various religious communities of women throughout Ireland. Many Pagan elements enter into the legends surrounding St. Bride and it is obvious that in her lifetime she acted to place some of the Pagan ceremonies into Christian context.

One thing we recognize is the consciousness of the early peoples was one of attunement with spiritual processes and beginnings. We might hesitate to describe February as Spring, however early people perceived more deeply and could feel the forces working at this time in the earth. They were spiritually preparing for the material expression of germination and regrowth in the months to come.

These early expressions were pictures through the myth of Bride and the Cailleach. The three months of winter, from Samhain to Brigantia (Imbolc/Candlemas) were under the power and government of the Cailleach, the old woman goddess, also known in some parts of Scotland as the Carline of Mag-Moullach. The Cailleach was pictured as residing in certain high mountains, and she embodies the forces of contraction and is the enemy of growth. Each year, on the Eve of Bride, as the first glimmer of dawn appears, the Cailleach drinks of the well of youth and is transformed into the fair young goddess Bride.

We also find the celebration of the female mystery of the germination of the seed, the process which spiritually was beginning to happen in the earth after the cold contractive forces of winter. The Cailleach were withdrawn, and the youthful energies of the Bride facet of the goddess could come into being. Now plans are laid for the future as this is a time of new beginnings.

We would like to mention that we have back issues of "Outer Court Communications" available for 75¢ an issue.

We would appreciate, when you respond to ads, mentioning "Outer Court Communications" or "Our Lady Of Enchantment." Thank You.



FROM CIRCLE:

Circle has just purchased land for Circle Sanctuary. This 200 acre wilderness site is located in the hills of southwestern Wisconsin (USA) about 30 miles from Madison. Pagans from many groups and traditions throughout the United States and several other countries have helped Circle Sanctuary manifest through their donations of ideas, labor, skills, blessings, and funds. Donations are especially needed now that the land has been purchased to develop Circle Sanctuary as a retreat center for Pagan visitors and as a wildlife preserve, re-establishing and protecting endangered species of animals and plants. A free flyer with details about this project is available upon request by writing Circle at their new address: P.O. Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

The 1984 National Pagan Spirit Gathering is being held June in Wisconsin. Theme of this year's gathering is Shamanism for the New Age. A free brochure with details will be mailed in late Spring to those requesting one. Write Circle, P.O. Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 or call (608) 924-2216 weekdays between 10a.m.-2p.m. Central Standard Time. A special weekend meeting for leaders of Wiccan Covens and other Pagan groups to share ideas and experiences in teaching and leading group rituals is being planned in conjunction with the Gathering. Contact Circle for more details.



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There are over 800 of you out there and yet only the same handfull contribute. This is your newsletter so **GET INVOLVED**. You write us long enough letters: so we know you can do it. So many of you have interesting things happen, why not share your adventures with others of like mind. We will all gain from our experiences, much more, if we share them with others. Keep this in mind. Deadline for the Equinox issue will be Feb. 21st. **LETS HEAR FROM YOU!**

We've said it once and we are saying it again, "IT COSTS MONEY TO RUN THE SCHOOL." We pride ourselves in the quality of the work that we are able to put out and the time we spend with each one of you. We are a non-profit organization. The teachers, counselors and staff donate their time and energy to keep things going, however, they can't do it alone. When you need help or advice we are here, think about this the next time you have a spare dollar or two. Remember, you only get out of something what you put into it.

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HELP SUPPORT OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT

The school can also use books for the School Library. Used ones that you no longer need or want could be loaned to a seeker that is in need. We have many classes and activities that are free of charge, so please give what you can. Remember that all your donations are tax-deductible

***** GET INVOLVED *****

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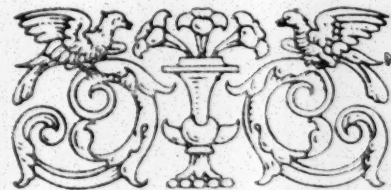
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OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT

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GATHERINGS & SEMINARS**FEBRUARY**

February 1st. Imbolc/Candlemas Ritual & Celebration. Our Lady Of Enchantment will be holding their annual Imbolc ritual and celebration for members, students and invited guests. Our space is limited so please contact us before Jan. 21st for time and place this Great Day Sabbat will be held. For more information contact the school at Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061.

February 3-5 Other Realities Candlemas Festival, being held in Madison, Wi at the Circle Farm. Workshops, rituals, lectures. For more information call Circle (608) 437-8964.

February 10-12 Winterstar Festival, Columbus, Ohio. Lectures, music, workshops. For more information contact A.C.E., 3130 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 or call (216) 932-5421

February 17-19 Celebration of Womanhood in Houston, TX. Sponsored by Nexus. Write Judy Haskell, 5920 Bissonnet #113, Houston, TX 77081

MARCH

March 18th. Outer Court Fellowship classes, class number 2 in the first series of 5. Basic Wicca; class two on Chakras, meditation and metaphysics. For more information on these classes please contact the school at Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061.

March 20th Vernal Equinox Ritual & Celebration. Our Lady Of Enchantment welcomes all members, students and invited guests to their annual Equinox celebration. Ritual, feast and merry-making. For more information contact Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

NOTICE: Along with planned rituals, celebrations and classes, Our Lady Of Enchantment, holds a public 'Church' meeting twice monthly; this consists of fellowship, ritual and rap session, please contact us for more information on times and dates. Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

Lewis

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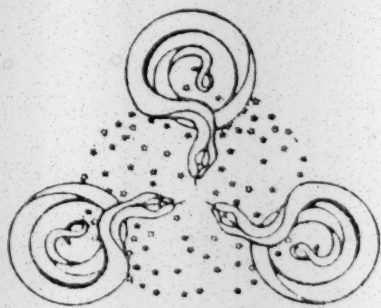
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ASTROLOGY MADE SIMPLE
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With the horoscope a variety of odd symbols and shapes can be found, some grouped together, many sitting alone, and all connected with various lines. To many people the interpretation of these strange glyphs appears to be a mysterious process, yet given a little time and practice, it isn't difficult at all.

The horoscope is a map which shows the positions of the signs, planets and astrological power points for a given time and place. The symbols are merely a shorthand for the factions being considered.

To get some idea of how Astrology works lets begin by looking at the signs and planets to see how they function.

The Astrological signs are arranged in a specific order, beginning with Aries and continuing through with Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces. These form the backdrop through which the planets move. They represent the twelve major facets which make up life.

For an example Aries represents that initial burst of energy that gets things started. It is the sign of impulsive action, the pioneer of new frontiers. Where as Virgo is the sign of detail, meticulous attention, health and employment. It represents those qualities which enable a person to be analytical and discriminating.

The planets, on the other hand, represent active energies which directly influence our lives. Mars is the planet of hard-hitting, aggressive energy, indicating much about an individual's assertiveness and personal power. Venus, however, portrays the qualities of love, beauty, harmony and pleasure.

The astrologer must be able to look at each influence within the chart, seeing how it is altered by other factions.

Suppose that each of the signs were a stage upon which the planets must perform. Each planet can be seen as an actor who possessed a distinct personality. However, how this planet reacts depends largely upon what sign it is in. That is what stage it must perform upon.

For the sake of example, let's place Mars

in Aries. Mars would feel at home here, expressing his abounding power and enthusiasm in an all out effort to begin new projects and to stir others into action. If Mars were placed in Virgo the effect would be completely different. Here the exuberance of Mars would be channeled into analytical and intellectual pursuits. The Martian enthusiasm would show itself in one's desire to accomplish much through employment.

The other planets and signs can be looked upon in this way. That is, each of the planets, as an actor, performing in and thus modified, by the sign in which it is placed.



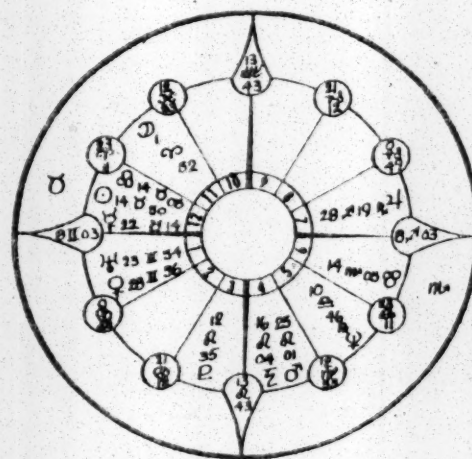
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GENTLE LADY - GODDESS CARING

*Gentle Lady - Goddess caring,
Sweet eternal Mother sharing.*

*Onto thy ways I've spent my life,
Giving up loves earthly wife.*

*I've searched thy ways for years & they,
Are worth more than a diamonds pay.*

*My Gentle Lady - Goddess caring,
When into crystal ball I'm staring.*

*Your lovely face by me is seen,
Glowing in your moonlight beam*

*Oh Gentle Lady - Goddess caring,
May I be so bold and daring.*

*As to write of thee in line,
Filling up my empty time.*

*And may you grant me many days,
To write of you in diverse ways.*

*Perhaps to teach the pure of heart,
To know your truth right from the start.*

*For you are all the world to me,
From mountains high to salted sea.*

*Yet words are all I have to share,
Please hear your humble child's prayer.*

*And never leave me in doubts despairing,
Sweet Gentle Lady - Goddess caring.*

By; Charles H. Radziewicz



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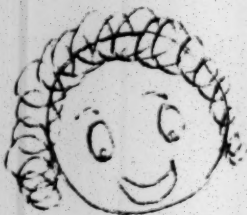
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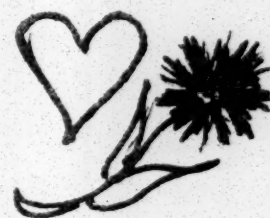
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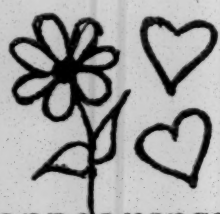
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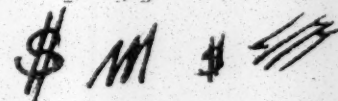
DOODLING A PATH TO AWARENESS



Do you doodle hearts and flowers while talking on the phone? If so, you are probably a sensitive, gentle being, having flexible, adaptable feelings, and you are probably talking to a love one.

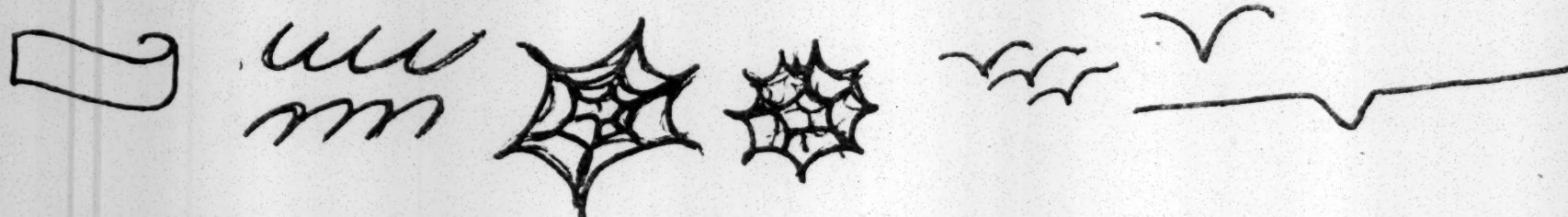


Doodling is one way to release thoughts, feelings or ideas from the subconscious. This is usually a part time attention effort, such as talking on the phone when one is not obliged to be using his mind to concentrate on the appearance of the conversation partner, on eye contact or on concern for his or her own personal appearance. Or, one is at a lecture and part of the mind is listening and the other part is drifting, recording symbols and signs from just below the conscious level. In this instance the doodler might combine something of what is being said with some feelings of his own. The lecture might be an appeal for money, hence the doodler draws dollar signs or maybe just jagged lines that show hostile feeling towards the appeal for money.



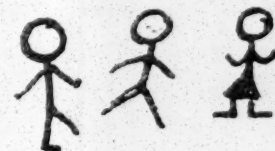
Another example is an anxious mother, listening to a sometimes good, critical report concerning her child, doodles gentle loving flowers with anxious, tense, dark centers and jagged leaves. She is releasing some of her inner tensions.

We find that deep, rounded cups, garlands or low sweeping connective strokes are harbingers of a gentle, adaptable nature. An emerging feminist might doodle spider webs or birds to show a need to move out of confinement, to expand her horizons. Most birds depict a love of freedom of the out-of-doors and of human nature.



Additions of moustaches and glasses to pictures indicate the parasitic artist would like to be in a position of authority and is not. For instance, a person kept waiting needlessly might retaliate with such a doodle, implying he doesn't like the way matters are being conducted.

Toothpick people are usually symbols of their creator. They indicate a plea for attention, a swollen ego or a desire for someone to "look at me." If the toothpick figure is abnormal or not fully formed, it shows a sense of incompleteness. Perhaps the actual physical defect in the doodle is a part of the doodler. If the doodler begins shading or filling in a figure, he is becoming fearful or anxious.



A bored business executive may draw a beautiful swan out of a need to present some gentleness and beauty into his area at the time. Happy faces show a friendly, joyful person. But whatever the doodler is doodling is a release of clues from the subconscious, a method of liberating some suppressed feelings. Doodles are all apertures through which the subconscious is expressing itself, and many doodles lie within each individual, waiting for the opportunity to be expressed and thereby increase the doodler's self-awareness.



OUTER COURT COMMUNICATIONS, is published 8 times a year, prior to each of the Eight Sabbats. This is a newsletter written for and by students and members of "Our Lady Of Enchantment." Presently our readership includes students & members in the British Isles, Japan, Nigeria, Australia, France, Switzerland, China, West Germany, Holland, Bahamas, Mexico, Canada and the USA.

STAFF MEMBERS; Editor-Lady Sabrina, Assistant Editor - Lord Dionysius, Contributing Editor and Production Assistant- Lord Phoenix.

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